

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MEDIA REACTION:

SUBJECT: RECENT VISIT TO MOROCCO OF JOURNALIST JOSEPH KRAFT

1. RECENT VISIT TO MOROCCO OF JOURNALIST JOSEPH KRAFT PROMPTED COVERAGE IN ALL FRENCH-AND ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILIES, EXCEPT FOR AL BAYANE, THE MOROCCAN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, WHICH DID NOT MENTION THE VISIT.
 2. AT INVITATION OF GOM MINISTRIES OF INFORMATION, AND FON AFF, KRAFT HELD ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION WITH EXCLUSIVELY MOROCCAN JOURNALISTS DURING WHICH HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. LACKED "A WELL-DEFINED POLICY TOWARD THE MAGHREB," AMERICANS HARBORED "HARMFUL (NEFASTES) PREJUDICES AGAINST MOROCCO, WHICH (THEY) PERCEIVED AS A REACTIONARY POLICE-STATE WHERE CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE VIOLATED."
 3. KRAFT WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT U.S. VIEW OF ALGERIA AS A "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRY WAS CHANGING. "WE KNOW THAT REPRESSION EXISTS (IN ALGERIA), THAT ALGERIA PLAYS A ROLE AMONG REJECTIONIST FRONT COUNTRIES, THAT SOVIET AID IS SENT VIA ALGERIA TO ANGOLA." IN SHORT, "IT IS NOT THE PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY THAT WE ONCE THOUGHT IT WAS."
 4. ACCORDING TO KRAFT, CHANGING AMERICAN VIEWS OF ALGERIA
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AND EXISTING PREJUDICES AGAINST MOROCCO MAKE IT ALL THE MORE NECESSARY THAT "MOROCCO IMPROVE ITS PUBLIC IMAGE IN THE EYES OF AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY AFTER (MOROCCO'S) RECENT BIG STEP TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE FORM OF COMMUNAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS."

5. A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO KRAFT, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER "WANTS TO MAKE PROGRESSIVISM A PILLAR OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY,"

BROUGHT CONFUSED RESPONSES FROM THE PRESS. A JOURNALIST FOR SEMI-OFFICIAL AL MAGHRIB CHARACTERIZED THIS STATEMENT AS FULL OF "GRAY AREAS." THE SAME JOURNALIST QUOTED KRAFT'S ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN PROGRESSIVISM AS AN "OPEN-HANDED POLICY" TOWARD SO-CALLED "PROGRESSIVE REGIMES SUCH AS CUBA, PEKING AND HANOI." BUT, WROTE THE JOURNALIST, "WE WERE NOT CONVINCED. MR. KRAFT LIKED TO KEEP SAYING THAT 'IT WAS MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT' (WHEN QUESTIONED ON PARTICULAR POINTS) AND, UNDOUBTEDLY, THIS IS WHAT WAS REALLY AT THE ROOT OF HIS EXPLANATIONS."

6. CITING THE RECENT U.S. "REFUSAL" TO SELL ARMS TO MOROCCO COMPARED TO THE HITHERTO "PROGRESSIVE" AMERICAN VIEW OF ALGERIA, AL MAGHRIB'S EDITORIALIST PROPOSES TO SEND SEVERAL COPIES OF A BOOK BY THUCYDIDES TO AMERICAN SENATORS IN WHICH APPEARS A QUOTATION THAT HAS BEEN USED BY KING HASSAN II: "DO NOT DELIVER A FRIENDLY COUNTRY TO YOUR ENEMIES, NOR PUSH IT WITH DISCOURAGEMENT TO FORM ALLIANCES ELSEWHERE." ANDERSON

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